January and February, 1986. Allocations during the remaining part of 1986 will be made on the basis mentioned above. As in the past, the oil marketing companies will endeavour to supply the allocated quantities to Maharashtra.

Power projects for Maharashtra

2807. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many power projects have been approved by the Central Government for which the Government of Maharashtra had submitted project reports|feasibility reports so far; and

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in approving these projects and how long would it take to finally approve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Thirteen power projects have been approved for implementation in Maharashtra during the last five years (since 1980). In addition, the scheme for installation of Waste Heat Recovery Unit has been techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority.

(b) Five hydro and three thermal schemes received from Maharashtra are under appraisal in the Central Electricity Authority. The time taken for final clearance|approval would depend upon the response from the State authorities in furnishing replies to the comments of Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission, preparation of revised project reports, availability of essential inputs and the availability of requisite funds.

Areas prone to subsidence after closure of coal mines

2808. SHRI K. VASUDEV PANICKER: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the areas in Bihar and other parts of the country which are prone to subsidence and have been abandoned after the closure of coal mines; if so, the total acreage of such areas; and

(b) what steps the Central Government are taking to make such areas safe for habitation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Committee on safety in Coal Mines appointed by Government of India, in its report in August, 1979, observed that a danger from subsidence is apprehended in 166 collieries under Bharat Coking Coal Limited, Central Coalfields Limited, Eastern Coalfields Limited, Western Coalfields Limited. The following steps have been taken to make subsidence prone areas safe for habitation:

(1) Flling up of the pot holes on the surface as and when they occur.

(2) Stabilisation of the underground workings to the extent possible.

(3) Strict enforcement of Mines Act, Rules, Regulations and bye-laws made thereunder.

(4) Strict compliance with the conditions stipulated by Director General of Mines Safety in depillaring operation.

(5) Depillaring in conjunction with stowing, partial extraction etc.

Pricing of gas

2809. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANIKER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision on the issue of pricing of gas for various uses; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b) The issue of pricing of gas for various uses all over the country is under Government's consideration.

तेल निकालने, उसकी खोज करने तथा पाइप लाइन बिछाने के लिये ठेका

2810. **श्री जगदंबी प्रसाद यादव** : क्या पट्रोल और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान किन-किन विदेशी कम्पनियों को तेल निकालने, तेल की खोज करने तथा तेल पाइप लाईन बिछाने के लिए कितनी-कितनी राशि के ठेके दिए गए तथा उनके पते क्या हैं ;

(ख) क्या इस कार्य के लिए किसी देशी कम्पनी को योग्य नहीं समझा गया ; और

(ग) जिन देशी कम्पनियों ने इस कार्य के लिए अपनी निविदाएं भेजी थीं उनके नाम व पते क्या है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा) : (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर प्रस्तुत कर दी जायेगी।

Generating capacity of State Electricity Boards

2811. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the installed and of defective capacity of the State Electricity Boards on the 31st March, 1985; and

(b) the steps contemplated by Government to maximise the performance of units by updating technology and by refresher training to the staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) State-wise installed generating capacity as on 31st March, 1985 is indicated in the Statement I attached. The plant load factor of thermal stations of various State *Electricity Boards during April-November*, 1985 is given in attached Statement-II.

(b) A number of measures are being taken to increase generation from the existing thermal generating capacity. These measures include:—

(i) Extensive renovation and modernisaion programme of existing thermal power stations under a Centraliy Sponsored Scheme;

(ii) Training of operation and maintenance staff for upgrading their skills and knowledge;

(iii) Introduction of Modern methods and techniques in the areas of operation, maintenance, inventory control and overall management of power stations;

(iv) Proper planning and timely execution of works pertaining to annual overhaul|capital maintenance jobs; and

(v) Improvement in coal quality.